



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
324 EAST ELEVENTH STREET
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI - 64106

JUN 05 1979

Melville W. Gray, P.E.
Director
Division of Environment
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Topeka, Kansas 66620

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Vulcan

Dear Mel:

Thank you for your informative letter of May 8, 1979, concerning the publicity of hazardous waste problem sites. As a result of the "Love Canal" investigation and national media coverage, Congress requested information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on potential hazardous waste mismanagement cases in October 1978.

Region VII responded to this request by developing descriptions of sites and status of clean up or corrective actions on sites based on information available in our files. The Hazardous Materials Branch personnel did consult with their counterparts in the state solid waste management programs prior to the inclusion of a site on the list. Unfortunately, time did not permit a more thorough examination of the sites or their status and the condensed form in which the list was released by Headquarters did not provide an adequate status report on individual sites.

As you are well aware, the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment participated in the evaluation of the problems at the Vulcan Materials Company in Wichita several years ago. Your Department took the lead in the comprehensive corrective actions which the Company is endeavoring to complete and for this you are commended. However, the Regional Office has not received written communication on the status of the problems with the facility in question and our files still indicate a potential problem could exist. We welcome your letter informing us of the significant progress which has been made by Vulcan Materials Company and the comprehensive nature of their efforts. I trust that we can cooperate to provide the Company with a mutual expression of environmental health once their plan is fully implemented. In addition, I will expunge them from the list of potential problem sites at that time.

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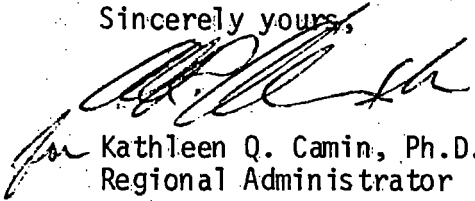
Superfund

The list which my staff produced in late October of last year was released to the press in a condensed form which did not include details on the status of the sites. I am enclosing a copy of the original listing for your information. The television network consequently published the names of the cities where each of these potential problem sites were located as a portion of the documentary, "The Killing Ground." My staff was also inundated with phone calls from concerned citizens wanting to know the name and hazard of all the sites in Region VII. The level of interest indicates the need to keep the public informed of such problem areas and apprised of the efforts to alleviate the hazards. For this we do not apologize. I was not apprised of the actions of the Food and Drug Administration until after their letters had been issued.

We have endeavored to keep you and your staff informed of any pertinent action taken which affects the State of Kansas and will continue to do so. We called and read the Region VII statements on the Vulcan Materials Company listing before each Regional report and will continue to do so. If time permits, we will send you copies of such materials for your review. If you would care to identify a lead person on this effort, I will direct all communications to that individual.

I hope that this letter answers your questions and is responsive to your concerns. If we can be of further assistance on this issue, please let me know how. I look forward to working with you to complete the approval of the Vulcan Materials Company's comprehensive waste management program.

Sincerely yours,



Kathleen Q. Camin, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

Enclosure